

said lands warrant issuance of a non-competitive right-of-way grant(s).

(b) A right-of-way grant issued pursuant to a competitive offer shall be awarded on the basis of the public benefit to be provided, the financial and technical capability of the bidder to undertake the project and the bid offer. Each bid shall be accompanied by the information required by the notice of realty action and a statement over the signature of the bidder or anyone authorized to sign for the bidder that he/she is in compliance with the requirements of the law and these regulations. A bid of less than the fair market rental value of the lands offered shall not be considered.

(c) The offering of public lands for right-of-way use under competitive bidding procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

(1)(i) A notice of realty action indicating the availability of public lands for competitive right-of-way offering shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and at least once a week for 3 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the public lands are situated or in such other publication as the authorized officer may determine. The successful qualified bidder shall, prior to the issuance of the right-of-way grant, pay his/her proportionate share of the total cost of publication.

(ii) The notice of realty action shall include the use proposed for the public lands and the time, date and place of the offering, including a description of the lands being offered, terms and conditions of the grant(s), rates, bidding requirements, payment required, where bid forms may be obtained, the form in which the bids shall be submitted and any other information or requirements determined appropriate by the authorized officer.

(2) Bids may be made either by a principal or duly qualified agent.

(3) All sealed bids shall be opened at the time and date specified in the notice of realty action, but no bids shall be accepted or rejected at that time. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved. Only those bids received by the close of business on the day prior to the bid opening or at such other time stated in the notice of realty ac-

tion and made for at least the minimum acceptable bid shall be considered. Each bid shall be accompanied by U.S. currency or certified check, postal money order, bank draft or cashier's check payable in U.S. currency and made payable to the Department of the Interior—Bureau of Land Management for not less than one-fifth of the amount of the bid, and shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope which shall be marked as prescribed in the notice of realty action. If 2 or more envelopes containing valid bids of the same amount are received, the determination of which is to be considered the highest bid shall be by drawing unless another method is specified in the notice of realty action. The drawing shall be held by the authorized officer immediately following the opening of the sealed bids.

(4) In the event the authorized officer rejects the highest qualified bid or releases the bidder from such bid, the authorized officer shall determine whether the public lands involved in the offering shall be offered to the next highest bidder, withdrawn from the market or reoffered.

(5) If the highest qualified bid is accepted by the authorized officer, the grant form(s) shall be forwarded to the qualifying bidder for signing. The signed grant form(s) with the payment of the balance of the first year's rental and the publication costs shall be returned within 30 days of its receipt by the highest qualified bidder and shall qualify as acceptance of the right-of-way grant(s).

(6) If the successful qualified bidder fails to execute the grant form(s) and pay the balance of the rental payment and the costs of publication within the allowed time, or otherwise fails to comply with the regulations of this subpart, the one-fifth remittance accompanying the bid shall be forfeited.

[52 FR 25820, July 8, 1987]

§ 2803.1-4 Bonding.

The authorized officer may require the holder of a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit to furnish a bond or other security satisfactory to him, to secure the obligations imposed by

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the grant or permit and applicable laws and regulations.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980. Redesignated at 52 FR 25820, July 8, 1987]

§ 2803.1-5 Liability.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, each holder shall be fully liable to the United States for any damage or injury incurred by the United States in connection with the use and occupancy of the right-of-way or permit area by the holder.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, holders shall be held to a standard of strict liability for any activity or facility within a right-of-way or permit area which the authorized officer determines, in his discretion, presents a foreseeable hazard or risk of damage or injury to the United States. The activities and facilities to which such standards shall apply shall be specified in the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit. Strict liability shall not be imposed for damage or injury resulting primarily from an act of war, an Act of God or the negligence of the United States. To the extent consistent with other laws, strict liability shall extend to costs incurred by the United States for control and abatement of conditions, such as fire or oil spills, which threaten lives, property or the environment, regardless of whether the threat occurs on areas that are under Federal jurisdiction. Stipulations in right-of-way grants and temporary use permits imposing strict liability shall specify a maximum limitation on damages which, in the judgment of the authorized officer, is commensurate with the foreseeable risks or hazards presented. The maximum limitation shall not exceed \$1,000,000 for any one event, and any liability in excess of such amount shall be determined by the ordinary rules of negligence of the jurisdiction in which the damage or injury occurred.

(c) In any case where strict liability is imposed and the damage or injury was caused by a third party, the rules of subrogation shall apply in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction in which the damage or injury occurred.

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, holders shall be fully liable for injuries or damages to third

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parties resulting from activities or facilities on lands under Federal jurisdiction in which the damage or injury occurred.

(e) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, holders shall fully indemnify or hold harmless the United States for liability, damage or claims arising in connection with the holder's use and occupancy of rights-of-way or permit areas.

(f) If a holder is a State or local government, or agency or instrumentality thereof, it shall be liable to the fullest extent its laws allow at the time it is granted a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit. To the extent such a holder does not have the power to assume liability, it shall be required to repair damages or make restitution to the fullest extent of its powers at the time of any damage or injury.

(g) All owners of any interest in, and all affiliates or subsidiaries of any holder of a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit, except for corporate stockholders, shall be jointly and severally liable to the United States in the event that a claim cannot be satisfied by the holder.

(h) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this section, the provision in this section for a remedy is not intended to limit or exclude any other remedy.

(i) If the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit is issued to more than one holder, each shall be jointly and severally liable under this section.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980. Redesignated at 52 FR 25820, July 8, 1987]

§ 2803.2 Holder activity.

(a) If a notice to proceed requirement has been included in the grant or permit, the holder shall not initiate construction, occupancy or use until the authorized officer issues a notice to proceed.

(b) Any substantial deviation in location or authorized use by the holder during construction, operation or maintenance shall be made only with prior approval of the authorized officer under § 2803.6-1 of this title for the purposes of this paragraph, substantial deviation means:

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(1) With respect to location, the holder has constructed the authorized facility outside the prescribed boundaries of the right-of-way authorized by the instant grant or permit.

(2) With respect to use, the holder has changed or modified the authorized use by adding equipment, overhead or underground lines, pipelines, structures or other facilities not authorized in the instant grant or permit.

(c) The holder shall notify the authorized officer of any change in status subsequent to the application or issuance of the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit. Such changes include, but are not limited to, legal mailing address, financial condition, business or corporate status. When requested by the authorized officer, the holder shall update and/or attest to the accuracy of any information previously submitted.

(d) If required by the terms of the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit, the holder shall, subsequent to construction and prior to commencing operations, submit to the authorized officer a certification of construction, verifying that the facility has been constructed and tested in accordance with terms of the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit, and in compliance with any required plans and specifications, and applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

§ 2803.3 Immediate temporary suspension of activities.

(a) If the authorized officer determines that an immediate temporary suspension of activities within a right-of-way or permit area for violation of the terms and conditions of the right-of-way authorization is necessary to protect public health or safety or the environment, he/she may promptly abate such activities prior to an administrative proceeding.

(b) The authorized officer may give an immediate temporary suspension order orally or in writing at the site of the activity to the holder or a contractor or subcontractor of the holder, or to any representative, agent, employee or contractor of the holder, and the suspended activity shall cease at that time. As soon as practicable, the authorized officer shall confirm an oral

order by a written notice to the holder addressed to the holder or the holder's designated agent.

(c) An order of immediate temporary suspension of activities shall remain effective until the authorized officer issues an order permitting resumption of activities.

(d) Any time after an order of immediate temporary suspension has been issued, the holder may file with the authorized officer a request for permission to resume. The request shall be in writing and shall contain a statement of the facts supporting the request.

(e) The authorized officer may render an order to either grant or deny the request to resume within 5 working days of the date the request is filed. If the authorized officer does not render an order on the request within 5 working days, the request shall be considered denied, and the holder shall have the same right to appeal the denial as if a final order denying the request had been issued by the authorized officer.

§ 2803.4 Suspension and termination of right-of-way authorizations.

(a) If the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit provides by its terms that it shall terminate on the occurrence of a fixed or agreed-upon condition, event, or time, the right-of-way authorization shall thereupon automatically terminate by operation of law, unless some other procedure is specified in the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit. The authorized officer may terminate a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit when the holder requests or consents to its termination in writing.

(b) The authorized officer may suspend or terminate a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit if he determines that the holder has failed to comply with applicable laws or regulations, or any terms, conditions or stipulations of the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit or has abandoned the right-of-way.

(c) Failure of the holder of a right-of-way grant to use the right-of-way for the purpose for which the authorization was issued for any continuous five-year period shall constitute a presumption of abandonment. The holder may rebut the presumption by proving

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that his failure to use the right-of-way was due to circumstances not within the holder's control.

(d) Before suspending or terminating a right-of-way grant pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, the authorized officer shall give the holder written notice that such action is contemplated and the grounds therefor and shall allow the holder a reasonable opportunity to cure such noncompliance.

(e) In the case of a right-of-way grant that is under its terms an easement, the authorized officer shall give written notice to the holder of the suspension or termination and shall refer the matter to the Office of Hearings and Appeals for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge pursuant to 43 CFR part 4. If the Administrative Law Judge determines that grounds for suspension or termination exist and such action is justified, the authorized officer shall suspend or terminate the right-of-way grant.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 38806, Sept. 2, 1982]

§ 2803.4-1 Disposition of improvements upon terminations.

Within a reasonable time after termination, revocation or cancellation of a right-of-way grant, the holder shall, unless directed otherwise in writing by the authorized officer, remove such structures and improvements and shall restore the site to a condition satisfactory to the authorized officer. If the holder fails to remove all such structures or improvements within a reasonable period, as determined by the authorized officer, they shall become the property of the United States, but the holder shall remain liable for the cost of removal of the structures and improvements and for restoration of the site.

§ 2803.5 Change in Federal jurisdiction or disposal of lands.

(a) Where a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit administered under these regulations traverses public lands that are transferred to another Federal agency, administration of the right-of-way shall, at the discretion of the authorized officer, be assigned to the acquiring agency unless

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such assignment would diminish the rights of the holder.

(b) Where a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit traverses public lands that are transferred out of Federal ownership, the transfer of the land shall, at the discretion of the authorized officer, include an assignment of the right-of-way, be made subject to the right-of-way, or the United States may reserve unto itself the land encumbered by the right-of-way.

§ 2803.6 Amendments, assignments and renewals.

§ 2803.6-1 Amendments.

(a) Any substantial deviation in location or use as set forth in § 2803.2(b) of this title shall require the holder of a grant or permit to file an amended application. The requirements for the amended application and the filing are the same and shall be accomplished in the manner as set forth in subpart 2802 of this title.

(b) Holders of right-of-way grants issued before October 21, 1976, who find it necessary to amend their grants shall comply with paragraph (a) of this section in filing their applications. Upon acceptance of the amended application by the authorized officer an amended right-of-way grant shall be issued. To the fullest extent possible, and when in the public interest as determined from current land use plans and other management decisions, the amended grant shall contain the same terms and conditions set forth in the original grant with respect to annual rent, duration and nature of interest.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 38806, Sept. 2, 1982]

§ 2803.6-2 Amendments to existing railroad grants.

(a) An amended application required under § 2803.6-1(a) or (b), as appropriate, shall be filed with the authorized officer for any realignment of a railroad and appurtenant communication facilities which are required to be relocated due to the realignment. Upon acceptance of the amended application by the authorized officer, an amended right-of-way grant shall be issued within 6 months of date of acceptance of the application. The date of acceptance of the

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application for the purpose of this paragraph shall be determined in accordance with § 2802.4(a) of this title.

(b) Notwithstanding the regulations of this part, the authorized officer may include in the amended grant the same terms and conditions of the original grant with respect to the payment of annual rental, duration, and nature of interest if he/she finds them to be in the public interest and the lands involved are not within an incorporated community and are of approximately equal value.

§ 2803.6-3 Assignments.

Any proposed assignment in whole or in part of any right or interest in a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit acquired pursuant to the regulations of this part shall be filed in accordance with §§ 2802.1-1 and 2802.3 of this title. The application for assignment shall be accompanied by the same showing of qualifications of the assignee as if the assignee were filing an application for a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit under the regulations of this part. In addition, the assignment shall be supported by a stipulation that the assignee agrees to comply with and to be bound by the terms and conditions of the grant to be assigned. No assignment shall be recognized unless and until it is approved in writing by the authorized officer. The authorized officer may, at the time of approval of the assignment, modify or add bonding requirements.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980, as amended at 52 FR 25820, July 8, 1987]

§ 2803.6-4 Reimbursement of costs for assignments.

(a) All filings for assignments, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, made pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by a non-refundable payment of \$50 from the assignor. Exceptions for a nonrefundable payment for an assignment are the same as in § 2803.1 of this title.

(b) Where a holder assigns more than 1 right-of-way grant as a single action, the authorized officer may, due to economies of scale, set a nonrefundable fee of less than \$50 per assignment.

[52 FR 25820, July 8, 1987]

§ 2803.6-5 Renewals of right-of-way grants and temporary use permits.

(a) When a grant provides that it may be renewed, the authorized officer shall renew the grant so long as the project or facility is still being used for purposes authorized in the original grant and is being operated and maintained in accordance with all the provisions of the grant and pursuant to the regulations of this title.

(b) When a grant does not contain a provision for renewal, the authorized officer, upon request from the holder and prior to the expiration of the grant, may renew the grant at his discretion. A renewal pursuant to this section shall comply with the same provisions contained in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) Temporary use permits issued pursuant to the regulations of this part may be renewed at the discretion of the authorized officer. The holder of a permit desiring a renewal shall notify the authorized officer in writing of the need for renewal prior to its expiration date. Upon receipt of the notice, the authorized officer shall either renew the permit or reject the request.

(d) Renewals of grants and permits pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this section are not subject to subpart 2808 of this title.

(e) Denial of any request for renewal by the authorized officer under paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section shall be final with no right of review or appeal.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 38806, Sept. 2, 1982; 52 FR 25808, July 8, 1987]

Subpart 2804—Appeals

§ 2804.1 Appeals procedure.

(a) All appeals under this part shall be taken under 43 CFR part 4 from any final decision of the authorized officer to the Office of the Secretary, Board of Land Appeals.

(b) All decisions of the authorized officer under this part shall remain effective pending appeal unless the Secretary rules otherwise. Petitions for the stay of a decision shall be filed

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with the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980, as amended at 53 FR 17702, May 18, 1988]

Subpart 2806—Designation of Right-of-Way Corridors

§ 2806.1 Corridor designation.

(a) The authorized officer may, based upon his/her motion or receipt of an application, designate right-of-way corridors across any public lands in order to minimize adverse environmental impacts and the proliferation of separate rights-of-way. The designation of corridors shall not preclude the granting of separate rights-of-way over, upon, under or through the public lands where the authorized officer determines that confinement to a corridor is not appropriate.

(b) Any existing transportation and utility corridor that is capable of accommodating an additional compatible right-of-way may be designated as a right-of-way corridor by the authorized officer without further review as required in §2806.2 of this title. Subsequent right-of-way grants shall, to the extent practical and as determined by the authorized officer, be confined to designated corridors, however, the designation of a right-of-way corridor is not a commitment by the authorized officer to issue right-of-way grants within the corridor. All applications for right-of-way grants, including those within designated corridors, are subject to the procedure for approval set forth in subpart 2802 of this title.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 3806, Sept. 2, 1982]

§ 2806.2 Designation criteria.

The locations and boundary of designated right-of-way corridors shall be determined by the authorized officer after a thorough review of:

(a) Federal, State and local land-use plans and applicable Federal and State laws.

(b) Environmental impacts on natural resources including soil, air, water, fish, wildlife, vegetation and on cultural resources.

(c) Physical effects and constraints on corridor placement or rights-of-way

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placed therein due to geology, hydrology, meteorology, soil or land forms.

(d) Economic efficiency of placing a right-of-way within a corridor, taking into consideration costs of construction, operation and maintenance, and costs of modifying or relocating existing facilities in a proposed corridor.

(e) National security risks.

(f) Potential health and safety hazards to the public lands users and the general public due to materials or activities within the right-of-way corridor.

(g) Engineering and technological compatibility of proposed and existing facilities.

(h) Social and economic impacts of the facilities on public lands users, adjacent landowners and other groups or individuals.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 38806, Sept. 2, 1982]

§ 2806.2–1 Procedures for designation.

(a) The designation of a right-of-way corridor shall be by decision of the authorized officer. A land use plan or plan amendment which contains the designation of a right-of-way corridor(s) meets the notification requirements of this section; and

(b) The authorized officer shall take appropriate measures to inform the public of designated corridors, so that existing and potential right-of-way applicants, governmental agencies and the general public will be aware of such corridor locations and any restrictions applicable thereto. Public notice of such designations may be given through publication in local newspapers or through distribution of planning documents, environmental impact statements or other appropriate documents.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 38806, Sept. 2, 1982]

Subpart 2807—Reservation to Federal Agencies

§ 2807.1 Application filing.

A Federal agency desiring a right-of-way or temporary use permit over, upon, under or through the public lands pursuant to this part, shall apply to the authorized officer and comply

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with the provisions of subpart 2802 of this title to the extent that the requirements of subpart 2802 of this title are appropriate for Federal agencies.

§ 2807.1-1 Document preparation.

(a) The right-of-way reservation need not conform to the agency's proposal, but may contain such modifications, terms, conditions or stipulations, including changes in route or site location, as the authorized officer determines appropriate.

(b) All provisions of the regulations contained in this part shall, to the extent possible, apply and be incorporated into the reservation to the Federal agency.

§ 2807.1-2 Reservation termination and suspension.

The authorized officer may suspend or terminate the reservation only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the reservation, or with the consent of the head of the department or agency holding the reservation.

Subpart 2808—Reimbursement of Costs

SOURCE: 52 FR 25808, July 8, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2808.1 General.

(a) An applicant for a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit under this part shall reimburse the United States in advance for the expected reasonable administrative and other costs incurred by the United States in processing the application, including the preparation of any reports or statements pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), prior to the United States having incurred such costs.

(b) The regulations in this subpart do not apply to the following:

- (1) Federal agencies;
- (2) State and local governments or agencies or instrumentalities thereof when a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit is granted for governmental purposes benefiting the general public. However, if the principal source of revenue results from charges being levied on customers for services similar to those rendered by a profit-

making corporation or business, they shall not be exempt; or

(3) Cost share roads or reciprocal right-of-way agreements.

[52 FR 25808, July 8, 1987; 52 FR 34456, Sept. 11, 1987]

§ 2808.2 Cost recovery categories.

§ 2808.2-1 Application categories.

(a) The following categories shall be used to establish the appropriate non-refundable fee for each application pursuant to the fee schedule in § 2808.3-1 of this title:

(1) *Category I.* An application for a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit to authorize a use of public lands for which the data necessary to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and other statutes are available in the office of the authorized officer or from data furnished by the applicant; and no field examination is required.

(2) *Category II.* An application for a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit to authorize a use of public lands for which the data necessary to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and other statutes are available in the office of the authorized officer or from data furnished by the applicant; and 1 field examination to verify existing data is required.

(3) *Category III.* An application for a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit to authorize a use of public lands for which the data necessary to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and other statutes are available in the office of the authorized officer or from data furnished by the applicant; and 2 field examinations to verify existing data are required.

(4) *Category IV.* An application for a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit to authorize a use of public lands for which some original data are required to be gathered to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and other statutes; and 2 or 3 field examinations are required.

(5) *Category V.* An application for a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit to authorize a use of public lands for which the gathering of original data are required to comply with